

KNOXVILLE WHIG.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1861.

The Race for Governor.

I am officially notified by the *Brentwood (Tenn.) Press*, a little 8 by 16 sheet, edited by one W. H. Bassett, that I will, under no conceivable circumstances, get his support, or the support of any of its sections, for the office of Governor, meaning, I suppose, Edgecomb. I am, myself, similarly situated as to *Xanxus*—I would not support him if he were nominated by a Convention in every Congressional District in this State.

The ground upon which the little *Brentwood* paper appears to me, is, that I am not an "independent Union candidate," and that I am not "leading and deserving the party." In my circular, from which this patriotic sheet leaves my sentiments, I thus announce the condition upon which I will or will not concur in the election:

"If the real people, who constitute the great Union Party in the State, shall prefer some other candidate to me, and shall make that fact known by a distinct and legitimate expression of their will, without the leading and directing influence of the leaders of the Secessionists, I will be willing to withdraw my name from the list of candidates, and enter most heartily into the support of their choice—provided, always, that the standard-bearers know substantially the doctrine I have heretofore avowed, and that they, in their judgment, cannot get my support, because he runs as the representative of the principles of the great Union Party, and succeed in obtaining the nomination by a State Convention. The greater number of the people of this State, however, desire a man aspiring to an office of such honor and trust, that he shall be an eminently safe."

"In this, I do not mean to dictate the party or their course, but to say, that a candidate falling short in the political articles of faith I renounced, cannot receive my vote, though, if nominated, I will not make myself a slave, or give him any chance of success."

The foregoing is sufficiently explicit to shield us from the charge of seeking to divide and distract the party. When it was written, I expressed all that I intended, and I intended nothing more than I expressed.

By the passing of a delegation to a State Convention, and the frequent of political leaders in county meetings, some man is nominated, whose whole life has been devoted to the building up of the corrupt party which has brought all the trouble of the day upon the country. I shall feel under no sort of obligation to respect such nominations, and I will therefore shape my course accordingly. Nor will I support any man for the office who has, unmercifully through 1860, either a candidate or an office-holder, under the State or General Government. The people are sick and tired of old political regulars, and old politicians, and now is the time to let them abide. They want me, for the most part, who have never been mixed up with them, and they especially want men in office. Had this doctrine been adopted long since, and carried out, our country would not now be involved in a fearful revolution, brought on by a corrupt set of aspirants, and of designing demagogues, who have been all their days in office!

The people want reform, and I am willing, if need be, to be sacrificed in leading on in the work of reform, in this or any other respect. The Whigs take by a few county meetings, put up by a few designing leaders to furnish the people with candidates for all the offices in the State, from that of Governor down to Representatives in the Legislature, have resulted in forcing upon the people, men in whom selection for the offices they fill, the people had no voice, whose action is devoid of any direct responsibility to the people, and whose assumed power, when they have assembled to nominate candidates, was enlisted. The importation by these Conventions upon the people, in whose selection as candidates, the people really had no share, has been a matter of universal complaint. For instance, a man file the gubernatorial Chair of Tennessee against whom the people are presented to prominence by the greatest majority of SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND VOTERS, if they were called to the ballot-box, and he was nominated by a party, and the appointment of a committee to report suitable candidate. My future course, therefore, will be determined by the development of that Convention, and of the primary meetings held in reference thereto. Until then, I remain,

Very Respectfully, &c.

W. G. BROWNSON.

The Whig and the Secessionists.

The Southern papers, and Southern letter-writers, assail with bitter denunciation the Union sentiments of the *Knoxville Whig*, and seem to think that its Editor ought to be hung, or at least rude upon a gall. In our last, they complain of our counselling the Border States to issue and disgraceful submission to slavery, and to the next breath, they come down upon us with bitter denunciations, and congratulate the people of the Southern Confederacy that we have an infatuation at home or abroad. The word *Union* seems to be the most offensive to them, when printed by us; by many other publishers, and the word *reunion*, when applied to them, is more bitter to their taste, and terrible in their eyes, than when they see it in a dictionary! Some of them swear that we must and shall be hung—others write at us that they will visit our town for the purpose of assassinating us—others boast of having hung us—*and* all agree that they will have laws passed in the Southern seceded States, destroying our *Whig*, an incendiary document, punishing those who circulate it. We stand here, in the metropolis of East Tennessee, proudly erect, and look with scorn and contempt upon all such malignant assassins. Like the eagle on Norm's Rock, we look down and scorn these accursed scoundrels below. There are Union men enough in the border States to sustain our paper, and the growing increase of our list, is proof to us that the sentiments which we now, God as witness, are the hearts of the rest people. It is truly gratifying to us to know that *truth* is in fact, for we know the sentiments we have uttered are right, that they are patriotic, we have

they are true, and there thousands of men in the *Gordon Dixie*, who are heart and soul with the Calico party, and who glory in standing with us upon the broad platform of the Union, the Constitution, and the enforcement of the laws. We welcome to this position the reverent sons of the North, as those of the South, and shall hail their restoration to conservatism as a glorious rainbow-preserved of our country's future welfare.

But in the vileness of their rage against the border States, the indignant secessionists leap beyond the bounds of truth, into the regions of fancy and falsehood, and denounce Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Missouri, as abominable, and willing to hang on the tail of a Black Republican Administration. The border States occupy no such position. They stand now precisely where they did before the Presidential election, precisely where the Union party of the South stand, and stand now—upon the broad, the patriotic platform of "the Constitution of the country, the Union of the States, and the Enforcement of the Laws"—midway between the altars of the hell-deserving Abolitionists of the North, and the God-for-sakes Dis-unions of the South, and appealing earnestly to each to lay aside their insensationalism, and, upon the altar of our common country, to renew their oaths of allegiance to the Union, which has been to all the States, of all sections, the fountain of all the social and political blessings that have made us a proud, intelligent, powerful, and prosperous people.

We fight the infamous heresy of Secession because we regard it as a remedy for nothing, save a few corrupt and dissipated Southern office-seekers, whose schemes of plunder were all blighted by the election of Lincoln. We fight the Disunion heresy because it is the greatest of all calamities that can befall the country, and, as is duty bound, we denounce the Disunions of the South as sparingly and heartily as we did the supporters of their choice—provided, always, that the standard-bearers know substantially the doctrine I have heretofore avowed, and that they, in their judgment, cannot get my support, because he runs as the representative of the principles of the great Union Party, and succeed in obtaining the nomination by a State Convention. The greater number of the people of this State, however, desire a man aspiring to an office of such honor and trust, that he shall be an eminently safe."

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Another, and a master answer to this, is James A. E., who lives on the side of the Bell Road in that neighborhood—not under the droppings of the *Sacred*, but of well known "Buzzard, Roost," a location adapted to his peculiar nature. He is very fond of the robbery of the mails, stealing remittances, ranging at from two to thirty dollars, in which cases we are the sufferers. These features on the part of subscribers to his *Excellency just past*, and he can go on with his law suits as he may think proper. If he will pursue them with persistence and prayer, they will make a Union Christian of him!

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